

## Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for installation of a pier in a soil matrix comprising, in combination, the steps of:

- a) positioning a hollow tube ~~apparatus~~ having a longitudinal dimension and a lateral dimension in a soil matrix, said hollow tube ~~apparatus~~ including a hollow core and an open lower end, said hollow tube core being thereby filled with said soil matrix;
- b) removing the soil matrix from the hollow core;
- b) c) inserting aggregate materials into the hollow tube ~~apparatus in the soil matrix core;~~
- e) d) moving the hollow tube ~~apparatus incrementally to an incremental step from the soil matrix and simultaneously imparting lateral forces on the mixture within the hollow tube apparatus and longitudinal forces on the inserted materials discharged from the open end of the hollow tube by such hollow tube movement~~ to thereby form a compacted lift as the hollow tube ~~apparatus~~ is removed in an said incremental step from the soil matrix; and
- d) e) repeating steps (b) and (e) c) and d).

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 ~~wherein the including placement of a separate mechanical member placed in the hollow tube apparatus extends core extending substantially the longitudinal length of the hollow tube apparatus and moving the mechanical member longitudinally and laterally to effect compaction of material discharged from the hollow tube core.~~

3. (Canceled) The method of Claim 1 including a step of removing the mechanical member from the hollow tube apparatus.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the hollow tube apparatus is formed with an inwardly beveled lower edge end.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the hollow tube apparatus includes a mechanical portion with a lower peripheral surface defining an angle intermediate the longitudinal and lateral directions.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1 including vibrating the hollow tube apparatus.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the hollow tube apparatus is cylindrical.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the hollow tube apparatus includes a uniform diameter hollow core, and ~~a bottom mechanical device with~~ an internal rim at the bottom of the hollow tube apparatus, ~~said bottom mechanical device being~~ beveled inwardly.

9. (Canceled) The method of Claim 1 wherein the hollow tube apparatus is driven or pushed into the soil matrix.

10. (Canceled) The method of Claim 1 wherein the hollow tube apparatus includes a mechanical portion with a lower peripheral surface defining an angle intermediate the longitudinal and lateral directions.

11. (Canceled) The method of Claim 1 including raising and lowering the hollow tube apparatus incrementally to impart forces on the soil matrix and aggregate.

12. (Currently Amended) A pier formed by the process of any of the claims ~~1-11~~ 1, 2 and 4-8.